

**Highlights
of the
34th
Annual
Meeting
1958**

COMMITTEE PROGRAM

No. 2

**"The top six inches of the earth feed the world."
—Anon.**

**Issued by
SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL
REGINA, SASK.**

Highlights of the 34th Annual Meeting, 1958

The thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool was held in Regina, November 4th to November 14th. Wheat Pool delegates, representing all the shareholders, reviewed the business in all departments for the year ending July 31st, 1958. They approved the balance sheet and were pleased to see that the figures reflected members' loyalty and showed many benefits enjoyed by almost 100,000 members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Wheat Pool Delegates also discussed numerous problems facing the Agricultural Industry at present and suggested a number of solutions to these problems in the form of resolutions introduced by them during the 10-day meeting.

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool

The Assets of the Organization are owned and controlled by the shareholders on the basis of one member, one vote. Each shareholder's equity is built up through delivering his grain and livestock through Wheat Pool facilities. The 167 elected delegates represented all the shareholders at this Annual Meeting.

The assets include 1,143 Country Elevators together with annexes, bins, agents' cottages, etc., five terminal elevators, Head Office building, the Modern Press, Vegetable Oil Plant, Flour Mill and Stockyards. There is also the working capital which now stands at \$5,753,491.04. The net value of these assets as at July 31st, 1958, is shown on the books at \$34,201,520.77. Based on present day replacement costs, this book value is low.

The direct investment of the shareholders in the organization consists of membership fees, \$141,227.00; elevator deductions, \$16,788,248.78; commercial reserves, \$9,046,727.33; Livestock Credit, \$89,329.38, making a total of \$26,065,532.49.

During the year 3,653 new members joined the Organization.

Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves

The policy of revolving deductions has been continued, and up to July 31st, 1958, Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves totalling \$19,527,577.87 have been purchased and re-allocated to current member-patrons who have delivered grain to Pool Elevators. The sum of \$1,765,500.00 has been provided from this year's earnings for transferring deductions, bringing the total to \$21,294,077.87.

Paid to Member-Patrons—1925-1957

From 1925 to 1957 the sum of \$56,128,790.31 has been paid out in cash or credits to the member-patrons since the Pool was organized.

Country Organization Department

This department includes Wheat Pool Committees, Delegates, Fieldmen, Travelling Superintendents, Agents and Livestock Pool Personnel. All these people work together to further the interests of the Pool and its membership through co-operative action.

During the year, District Representatives attended 3,026 meetings with an estimated attendance of 122,506 people. At 652 of these meetings motion pictures were shown. In addition there were personal visits made to 3,444 farmers, 1,409 businessmen and 3,124 Elevator Agents. Six one-week Co-operative Schools were held with a total attendance of 522 young people from all parts of the Province.

The Country Organization Department works closely with the University of Saskatchewan and helps to organize Regional Agricultural short courses under the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Program. Plans are under way to continue these courses during the coming winter.

The Department also assists in strengthening local co-operative associations, Credit Unions and other community projects. It has continued to work with agricultural representatives in the 4-H Club program.

The work of promoting the sale and use of Pool Flour has been carried on throughout the year. In this connection many Wheat Pool Committees and Women's Co-operative

Guilds took an active part in organizing baking demonstrations. Assistance has also been given to local Committees in organizing Co-operative Shipments of Livestock to the Livestock Division.

Wheat Pool Committees and Committee Conventions

During the year, 1,079 Wheat Pool Committees reported reorganization out of a total of 1,098 active committees in the Province. Local Wheat Pool Committees are the most important medium through which the membership is informed on the progress of the Wheat Pool in all Departments. During the year the sum of \$36,060.00 in remuneration was paid on application to committees who reported holding four or more meetings.

There were 128 Committee Conventions held during the year, attended by 7,590 people. There was an increase in the percentage of Wheat Pool Committeemen in attendance at these Conventions.

The agenda was changed to provide that local reports were presented by the local Secretary and Elevator Agent or summarized by the Delegates and the Travelling Superintendents. This optional feature worked quite well. Group discussion, followed by question periods was again used to good advantage. Reports indicate that participation by committeemen is improving. All important aspects of Wheat Pool policy were thoroughly discussed, led by the Director in each case and a number of resolutions dealing with Policy were adopted.

Country and Terminal Elevators

Deliveries to Pool Country Elevators last season amounted to 162,268,000 bushels as compared with 149,079,000 bushels in the previous year. This represented 47.98% of all grain delivered in Saskatchewan as compared with 46.73% in the previous year.

Pool terminals handled a total of 110,679,000 bushels as compared with 95,418,190 bushels a year ago.

In 1957-58 the sum of \$3,436,605.00 was made available to pay for all phases of construction of Country Elevators, Annexes and Agents' dwellings. When all this program is

completed the total Country Elevator storage capacity will be almost 83,000,000 bushels.

Port of Churchill

During the past season from August 1, 1957, to July 31, 1958, Pool Elevators shipped 8,835,732 bushels to Churchill, representing 47.61% of all grain shipped to this port. The shipments to Churchill are usually from points having a freight rate preference and on C.N.R. lines.

Flour Mill

The Wheat Pool Flour Mill operated for 323 days and produced about 1,327,195 hundredweights of flour. The Domestic flour sales of all grades has been increased as compared with one year ago. Export sales to many countries were down sharply, due to continued competition of American subsidized flour sales and their over-all "Disposal Program." However, there was a fine increase of flour sales to the United Kingdom. The Mill's capacity is 2,000 barrels of flour per day.

Vegetable Oil Plant

During the 1957-58 season the Vegetable Oil Plant operated 83 days on flax and 150 days on rapeseed, a total of 233 days as compared with 236 days a year ago. The amount of flax processed was 179,160 bushels, which produced 3,533,159 pounds of oil and 6,257,400 pounds of meal. Rapeseed processed amounted to the production of 6,747,118 pounds of oil and 5,645 tons of meal. The Vegetable Oil Plant showed a surplus of \$15,837.28.

Printing and Publishing Division

The Western Producer has a circulation of 130,649. The paper continues to provide strength and support to farm policies and expresses strong and favorable opinions on all matters which affect the welfare of the farmers in Western Canada.

After providing for depreciation on fixed assets and paying all operating costs there was a net operating loss of \$117,770.43. The delegates gave careful consideration to the financial problems of The Western Producer.

Livestock Division

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool owns yards at North Battleford, Regina, Swift Current and Yorkton. It also operates agencies at Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon. At St. Boniface, Manitoba, the Pool is part owner of Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited. Cattle and calf marketings for the year were 328,795 head compared with 281,392 marketed co-operatively a year ago, or 45.22%. Hogs marketed co-operatively were 180,792 head, equal to 30.51% of the Provincial total, compared with 31.52% last year. Sheep and Lambs marketed co-operatively were 18,702 head, which equals to 54% of the Provincial total.

The gross value of all livestock handled co-operatively in the year under review was \$48,846,134.75, representing 528,289 head handled. After making provision for depreciation and for taxes, the surplus amounted to \$270,109.55, compared with \$143,728.06 in the previous year.

Pool Insurance

Space will not permit a detailed report on the activities of the Canadian Pool Agencies Limited and The Pool Insurance Company. The detailed report will be included in the 34th Annual Report, a copy of which will be mailed to all members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. At present, it can be stated briefly, that Canadian Pool Agencies Limited finished the year with a savings of \$96,843.63 and Pool Insurance Limited a savings of \$705,217.06.

Surplus for the Year

The balance sheet for the year ending 31st of July, 1958, showed a surplus of \$6,356,091.75. This was allocated as follows:

Excess charges refund.....	\$5,190,500.00
Provision for Income Tax (estimated).....	540,000.00
Transfer to Reserve Account (estimated).....	625,591.75

The patronage refund works out to 3.1 cents per bushel of all grain (including rape-seed) delivered to Pool Elevators by Pool members during the year ending July 31st, 1957, and was allocated on the following basis:

Grain:

- (a) Cash patronage dividend at the rate of 1c per bushel, estimated.....\$1,605,000.00

- (b) Patronage dividend at the rate of 1.1c per bushel to be used for the purchase, at face value, of Elevator and Commercial Reserve Deductions of the Company, from members in eligible categories as previously determined by the Board of Directors, such Deductions to be credited to the persons entitled to the patronage dividend, provided that those members entitled to such dividend, whose Elevator and Commercial Reserve Deductions have heretofore been purchased by the Company, shall be paid their share of such amount in cash, estimated..... 1,765,500.00

- (c) Patronage dividend at the rate of 1c per bushel, to be retained as a loan from the shareholders of the Company in accordance with the Articles of Association, provided that those members entitled to such dividend, whose Elevator and Commercial Reserve Deductions have heretofore been purchased by the Company, shall be paid their share of such amount in cash, estimated..... 1,605,000.00

Livestock:

- (d) Patronage dividend at the rate per head for cattle 78c; calves 31c; and hogs, sheep and lambs 19c; to be retained as a loan from the shareholders of the Company, in accordance with the Articles of Association, provided that those members entitled to such dividend, whose Elevator and Commercial Reserve Deductions have heretofore been purchased by the Company, shall be paid their share of such amount in cash, estimated..... 215,000.00
- Total.....\$5,190,500.00

Opinions of Wheat Pool Members Are Heard and Considered

There are several thousand different types of Wheat Pool meetings held in the country every year. Many resolutions are introduced at these meetings by members of the organization. These are forwarded to Head Office and made available to the Resolutions Committee. This committee is made up of one delegate from each Wheat Pool District elected at the last Annual District Delegates' Meeting. All resolutions are examined by the

Resolutions Committee, who summarize them and present them to the General Meeting of Delegates at the time the topic referred to in the resolution is before the meeting. Any delegate has the right to offer an amendment or present a new Resolution. In this manner democratic policy is formed, guidance is given from the bottom up and progress made.

The world today is changing very rapidly. This is an age of "Missiles and Sputniks." Old methods in doing business are being discarded by many Governments all over the world. Most of the world's trade today is carried on through Governments, Government Agencies or Government Boards, who issue import and export licenses so that appropriate finances can be arranged for much needed food in deficiency areas of the world. In all these transactions the interest and welfare of the grower of food must be considered and protected. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool is doing its utmost in fulfilling its duty and responsibility in this connection.

However, it should not be forgotten that the Wheat Pool's ability to influence opinions at the National and International levels is dependent upon the degree of support given to it and the entire co-operative movement by its members in the country.

The Honorable Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce of the Dominion Government, The Honorable T. C. Douglas, Premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. W. McNamara, chairman Canadian Wheat Board, the members of the Board of Grain Commissioners attended the meeting and answered many questions pertaining to marketing policies of wheat and other grains.

An Important Decision

Before the meeting closed the delegates passed a resolution recommending that immediate action be taken by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to circulate a petition in support of a deficiency payment policy on wheat, oats and barley in Western Canada. This petition is to be taken to Ottawa by a mass delegation at the earliest possible date, which is to be determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with other farm organizations.